

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod ~~that has excellent wire drawability as it is hot-rolled and thus allows heat treatment prior to wire drawing to be omitted:~~

~~said hot-rolled wire rod being a hot-rolled wire rod 5.0 mm or more in diameter,~~  
containing comprising (in mass%):

C: 0.6 to 1.0%,

Si: 0.1 to 1.5%,

Mn: 0.3 to 1.0%,

P: 0.02% or less, and

S: 0.02% or less;

wherein said hot-rolled wire rod is

5.0 mm or more in diameter;

not less than 90% of said wire rod in area percentage ~~being composed of~~ comprises a pearlite structure; and

the mechanical properties of said wire rod 4 m in length ~~satisfying~~ satisfy the following expressions (1) to (4)[[,]]:

(1)  $TS^*-30 \leq \text{Average value of tensile strength } (TS_{AV} \text{ in MPa}) \leq TS^*+30$ ,

where,  $TS^* = 400 \times \{[C] + ([Mn] + [Si])/5\} + 670$  and the elements in square brackets [ ] in the equality equation mean the contents of relevant elements in percentage,

(2) Standard deviation of tensile strength ( $TS\sigma$ )  $\leq 30$  MPa,

(3) Average value of reduction of area ( $RA_{AV}$ )  $> 35\%$ ,

(4) Standard deviation of reduction of area ( $RA\sigma$ )  $\leq 4\%$ .

Claim 2 (Original): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, wherein the average diameter of nodules in said pearlite structure is 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further ~~containing~~ comprising:

Cr: 0.3% or less (excluding zero) and/or

Ni: 0.3% or less (excluding zero).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further ~~containing~~ comprising at least one element selected from ~~among~~ the group consisting of Nb, V, Ti, Hf and Zr by 0.1% or less (excluding zero) in total.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said wire rod further comprising N ~~[[is]]~~ controlled to 0.01% or less.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ said wire rod further comprising Al and Mg ~~[[are]]~~ controlled to 0.05% or less and 0.01% or less, respectively.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A hot-rolled wire rod according to claim 1, said wire rod further ~~containing~~ comprising  
B: 0.001 to 0.005%.